

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)**

16. (Currently Amended) A flat-plate low-profile actuator, comprising:  
a planar conductive polymer layer extending in a longitudinal direction;  
a first electrode in contact with the planar conductive polymer layer;  
a second electrode disposed opposite to the first electrode; and  
an electrolyte layer in contact with the planar conductive polymer layer, disposed in  
between the first electrode and the second electrode;  
wherein the first electrode is planar and comprises at least one band-like portion and at  
least one link portion, each of the at least one link portion extending in the longitudinal direction,  
each of the at least one band-like portion extending in a direction perpendicular to the  
longitudinal direction, and each of the at least one link portion is shorter than each of the ~~at-least~~  
~~on least one~~ band-like portion; and  
wherein application of an electric potential between the first electrode and the second  
electrode deforms the planar conductive polymer layer such that the flat-plate low-profile  
actuator expands or contracts in the ~~longitudinal-direction~~  
wherein the first electrode is a zigzag-shaped planar electrode.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The flat-plate low-profile actuator as defined in claim 16, wherein  
the first electrode is a planar electrode, the at least one band-like portion is a plurality of band-  
like portions, the at least one link portion is a plurality of link portions, and the plurality of link  
portions connect adjacent pairs of the band-like portions.

19. (Previously Presented) The flat-plate low-profile actuator as defined in claim 16, further  
comprising planar extension portions disposed on two sides of the first electrode in the  
longitudinal direction, the planar extension portions being operable to transfer a force generated